



# Theodore LIPSCOMB

Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District

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**September  
11th 2009  
E-NEWS #1**

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Economic and  
Community  
Development  
(Vice-Chair)

Health and  
Human Needs

Parks, Energy  
and Environment

County Board  
Task Force on  
Economic Stimulus  
(Chair)

Dear Constituents:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of my eNewsletter. I hope to use this forum to disseminate timely information on Milwaukee County issues of interest and concern to my district. Please share it with your neighbors.

September marks the formal start of the 2010 Budget process. The County Executive will present his proposed budget to the County Board on September 24, 2009; the County Board's Finance and Audit Committee will dissect the budget and propose changes during October; and the County Board will adopt our version of the budget on November 9, 2009. At that point the County Executive may make vetoes and the County Board will consider overrides to those vetoes. The entire process is scheduled to conclude by November 18, 2009.

We have many tough choices to make this year because the cost to maintain our existing services will rise and revenues are down. Stay tuned for more information after the budget is released. I intend to schedule a town hall meeting in the district to hear directly from constituents. As always, please feel free to call or email our office at any time.

Theodore Lipscomb  
Milwaukee County Supervisor  
District 1

## Volunteers help maintain Estabrook Dam



Milwaukee County Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb is recognizing the countless hours of work put in by a number of volunteers in recent days at the Estabrook Dam. "I am grateful to the many people who stepped forward and volunteered their time or donated resources to clean up the debris that has accumulated behind the dam for the last 15 months," Supervisor Lipscomb stated.

"Volunteers and donors have contributed more to the upkeep of the Estabrook Dam in 2009 than Milwaukee County, but now it is time for us, as owners of the dam, to step up and take responsibility for the dam repairs," Supervisor Lipscomb explained. "We must protect the health and safety of our community from potential flooding and exposure to toxins in the river soil."

Until last year, Milwaukee County cleaned up debris behind the dam on at least an annual basis. So far in 2009, however, no clean up was completed by the Parks Department because the Administration failed to adequately budget for the work. The dam is constructed with icebreakers, commonly referred to as "dragon's teeth," that catch debris, including large logs and branches that float downriver. Without regular cleaning, the debris impairs the dam's effectiveness at controlling flooding. If the dam were ever removed, the debris would wind up downstream, damaging downtown docks and boats on its way into the harbor, where it would pose a hazard and be difficult and expensive to clean up.



Several local employers and organizations assisted in the recent

cleanup effort, including volunteers from **Winkel's Tree and Landscape, Inc., Second Nature Landscape, Fabco Equipment Company, Bobcat Plus and the Milwaukee River Preservation Association**

<http://www.milwaukeeiverpreservation.org> . Milwaukee County Parks, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, and Milwaukee Police Department also supported the effort.

In particular, **Glendale Alderman Richard Wiese** and Glendale resident **Lance Wallace, Wallace Tree and Landscape, Inc.**, of Glendale provided exceptional support by orchestrating the cleanup effort. "We worked in coordination with the County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to accomplish the cleanup," said owner Lance Wallace. "It was important to me and my neighbors that the debris be cleaned out and the dam maintained to reduce the risk of flooding in the area."

The Estabrook Dam was constructed in 1938 as part of an extensive federal flood mitigation project. It was built by the Works Project Administration (WPA) in a massive civic effort involving thousands of laborers who blasted through rock lining the river bed using dynamite, cut a new channel through Lincoln Park, and removed a rock ledge that served as a natural dam.

"The necessity of the dam to mitigate flooding is well documented," Supervisor Lipscomb said. "It has served us well for more than 7 decades, and now it is time to preserve this important infrastructure for the benefit of Milwaukee County."

A 2009 Budget Amendment offered by Supervisor Lipscomb last year to fix the dam was stalled, but a lack of progress since that time has exacerbated the problem and drawn the ire of the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which recently issued a new order to repair or abandon the dam. An engineering report commissioned by Milwaukee County in 2006 put the cost of a 25-year fix at less than \$800,000. More recent estimates by public works staff in 2008 suggest the cost is now \$1.4 million. Opponents of the dam continue to cling to an absurd estimate made in 2009 of up to \$12 million. Supervisor Lipscomb maintains his support for a reasonable repair and asserts that opponents of the dam are pushing the higher estimates in an attempt to derail progress toward making the needed repairs."

"I call on County Executive Scott Walker to do the responsible thing for the thousands of homeowners that are now at increased risk of flooding, and all the users and neighbors of the County parks along this section of the river. They are being exposed to toxins because of current failures to maintain and operate the dam. My message to the County Executive is to include sufficient funding for repair of the Estabrook Dam in his 2010 Capital Budget."



## Supervisor Lipscomb Working on Your Behalf



*Supervisor Lipscomb joins Francis Deisinger, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, Chief Judge Kremers, John Barrett and Supervisor Johnson at the kickoff of Juror Appreciation Month.*

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**HAMPTON AVENUE** (Green Bay Avenue to I-43)

**ESTABROOK PARK DRIVE** (Capitol Drive to Hampton Avenue)

**MILWAUKEE RIVER PARKWAY BRIDGE**

**Proposed improvements:** The County of Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are proposing to construct the above referenced projects during the summer of 2010.

**Please attend:** A combined Public Information Meeting (PIM) for all three projects is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 15, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** at the Lincoln Park Emil Blatz-Pavilion, 1301 West Hampton Avenue, Milwaukee WI. The PIM is an open house format and you may attend anytime during the meeting at your convenience.

Persons with an interest in, or knowledge about, historical and archeological resources in the project areas are invited to present such information at the meeting. If you know of any other interested parties, please notify one of the project managers listed below so they can be added to the contact list.

**Information available:** Personnel from Milwaukee County as well as Kapur & Associates, Inc. and Collins Engineers, Inc., the consulting engineering firms providing design services for the projects, will be available to answer questions about the project. Exhibits will be on display for your review and comment.

**Your involvement:** We would like your thoughts about these projects. If there are issues you would like to discuss, please attend the meeting at a time that is convenient for you.

**Project Descriptions:**

**Hampton Avenue:** The project improvements will consist of removing the existing asphalt pavement and replacing the gravel base as needed. The roadway will be repaved with a new asphalt pavement surface. Approximately 25% of the concrete curb & gutter will be replaced. The roadway alignment and width will remain the same. The roadway may be closed to through traffic during construction operations.

**Estabrook Park Drive:** The project improvements will consist of removing the existing asphalt pavement, constructing new concrete curb & gutter making storm sewer improvements and providing a new asphaltic surface. The roadway may be closed to through traffic during construction operations.

**Milwaukee River Parkway Bridge and Approaches:** The subject bridge is located on the Milwaukee River Parkway just north of Hampton Avenue. The existing bridge, constructed in 1940, is deteriorated and considered deficient and will be replaced. Traffic may be detoured during construction operations. Coordinating these needed improvements to the parkway with businesses, the public, and local governments will effectively save costs and minimize construction disruptions.

**Accessibility:** The PIM location is handicapped accessible. A sign language interpreter will be available upon request. If you are hearing impaired, please contact Dennis A. Shook at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation SE Region office at 414-750-2395.

**WE WANT YOUR INPUT.**